

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2439

INFO USMISSION USUN NEWYORK

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 0382

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: POR, PFOR, US, GY

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS--BACKGROUND INFO ON GUYANA

REF: STATE 037591

1. HEREWITH ARE ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN REFTEL.

2. GUYANA'S PRIMARY MULTILATERAL INTERESTS IN 1976, AS IN RECENT YEARS, WILL FOCUS ON EFFORTS TO REMOVE WHITE MINORITY ROLE FROM SOUTHERN AFRICA AND TO PROMOTE ACCEPTANCE OF NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER BY DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. DEPENDING ON CIRCUMSTANCES, GUYANA MAY ALSO RAISE SPECTRE OF QUOTE DESTABILIZATION UNQUOTE THREAT ALLEGEDLY EMANATING FROM USG DISSATISFACTION WITH ITS MARXIST-THIRD WORLD THRUST, POSSIBLY ACCCOMPANIED BY ALLEGATIONS OF AGGRESSIVE INTENT ON THE PART OF ITS NEIGHBORS, VENEZUELA AND BRAZIL. WE HAVE AS YET NO INTIMATION OF GUYANA'S INTEREST IN CANDIDACIES EITHER FOR GOVT SEATS ON COUNCILS OF MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATIONS OR ON BEHALF OF INDIVIDUALS FOR POSITIONS IN MULTILATERAL AGENCIES.

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3. GUYANA IS ACTIVE MEMBER OF SO-CALLED NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT (NAM)

AND GENERALLY FOLLOWS PRACTICE OF CANVASSING TO DETERMINE CONSENSUS AMONG FELLOW MEMBERS OF NAM. GUYANA'S VOTINGPATTERN HAS BEEN CONSISTENTLY ALIGNED WITH MORE RADICAL WING OF NAM. WHILE GOG PRIDES ITSELF ON MEMBERSHIP IN GOVERNING COUNCILS OF NAM, WE SEE LITTLE EVIDENCE GUYANA HAS ATTEMPTED TO ASSERT ANY INFLUENCE ON OTHER MEMBERS OF NAM REGARDING MULTILATERAL ISSUES ALTHOUGH FONMIN WILLS HAS ALLEGED FROM TIME TO TIME THAT HE AND GOG DELEGATIONS HAVE ATTEMPTED TO ASSERT MODERATING INFLUENCE IN NAM COUNCILS. IT IS EMBASSY'S VIEW THAT, AT LEAST SO FAR, GUYANA HAS BEEN ACCEPTED WITHIN THE INNER CIRCLE OF NAM PRIMARILY BECAUSE IT CAN BE COUNTED ON TO GO ALONG WITH THE RADICAL LEADERS OF MAJORITY AND BECAUSE GUYANA IS A CONVENIENT QUOTE BRIDGE UNQUOTE BETWEEN AFRICA AND LATIN AMERICA.

4. SO FAR AS EMBASSY IS AWARE, FONOFF IN GEORGETOWN INSTRUCTS DELEGATIONS TO MAJOR INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS IN BROAD GENERALITIES ON MOST ISSUES. WHERE DEMARCHE FROM GOVT WITH DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN GEORGETOWN INDICATE A PARTICULAR ISSUE IS LIKELY TO BE CONTROVERSIAL, FONOFF APPARENTLY SETS FORTH MORE SPECIFIC GUIDELINES. EVEN IN THESE CASES, HOWEVER, THE INSTRUCTIONS APPEAR TO BE GIVEN ORALLY AND, TO JUDGE FROM EXPERIENCE WITH KOREAN AND ZIONISM RESOLUTIONS AT 30TH UNGE, ALLOW CONSIDERABLE DISCRETION ON THE PART OF THE CHIEF DELEGATE. FONMIN PERSONALLY, AND FONOFF GENERALLY, DO NOT ALWAYS RETAIN EFFECTIVE CONTROL OVER DELEGATIONS WHILE MEETINGS ARE IN PROGRESS. PRIMARY CAUSE IS ABSENCE OF EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION IN BOTH DIRECTIONS. OUR EXPERIENCE WOULD LEAD US TO BELIEVE THAT DELEGATION REPORTING DEPENDS TO SUBSTANTIAL DEGREE ON AMOUNT OF PRODDING DELEGATIONS RECEIVE FROM HEADQUARTERS. HOWEVER, WE HAVESEEN NO INSTANCES OF EGREGIOUS DISTORTION OR OMISSION FROM DELEGATION REPORTING WHEN FORTHCOMING.

5. GUYANA MAINTAINS PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE ONLY IN NEWYORK. GENEVA IS COVERED BY GUYANESE AMBASSADOR TO ECM IN BRUSSELS WHILE OTHER MEETINGS ARE COVERED EITHER BY NEAREST RESIDENT DIPLOMATIC MISSION OR DD DELEGATION SENT FROM GEORGETOWN. PERMREP IN NEW YORK HAS ONLY LIMITED INDEPENDENT POWER AND POLITICAL TIES TO PRIME MINISTER BURNHAM, WHO IS ULTIMATE ARBITER ON ALL POLITICAL ISSUES. IN ANY EVENT, ON MOST ISSUES WHICH HAVE ANY REAL SIGNIFICANCE TO GUYANA, THE PRIME MINISTER IS CAREFUL TO AIR THEM FULLY IN

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CABINET AND OBTAIN CABINET CONSENSUS. THIS TENDS FURTHER TO INHIBIT FREE WHEELING BY PERMREP IN NEWYORK OR ANY OTHER HEAD OF DELEGATION.

6. FONMIN WILLS AND SENIOR FONOFF OFFICIALS ARE READILY ACCESSIBLE TO AMBASSADOR AND EMBASSY STAFF. ACCESS, HOWEVER, DOES NOT REPEAT NOT TRANSLATE INTO RECEPΤIVITY. ON THE CONTRARY, IT HAS FREQUENTLY CROSSED OUR MINDS THAT, RELYING ON THE LAW OF AVERAGES,

WE MIGHT GET BETTER RESULTS BY CONCEALING OUR POSITION FROM GOG. THE GOG HARDLY EVER SOLICITS USG SUPPORT EXCEPT IN A SORT OF OFF-HAND WAY DURING THE COURSE OF OUR REPRESENTATIONS TO FONOFF ON MATTERS OF INTERST TO USG. FROM PRIME MINISTER DOWNWARD, GOG OFFICIALS HAVE GREAT DIFFICULTY IN ACCEPTING THE RELEVANCE OF GOG VOTING IN MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY TO THE STATUS OF BILATERAL RELATIONS. IN THE FIRST PLACE, THEY RESENT THE CONCEPT AS SMACKING OF PRESSURE TACTICS AND, IN THE SECOND PLACE, THEY DONT YET BELIEVE WE REALLY MAN IT.

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